

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and again examine the claims as amended in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Claims 44 – 55 are pending in the application. Claim 53 is allowed. Claims 44 – 52, 54 and 55 are rejected. Claims 44 – 52, 54 and 55 are amended herein. Claims 28-35, 42 and 43 are cancelled by this amendment without prejudice and claims 1-27 and 36-41 have been cancelled by previous amendments. No new claims have been added by this amendment.

In the Office Action dated December 1, 2005, the Examiner indicated that Claim 53 is allowed.

In this amendment, Applicant has amended each of claims 44 – 52, 54 and 55 to depend either directly or indirectly from allowed claim 53. Thus, each of claims 44 – 52, 54 and 55 are all also allowable.

Applicant has cancelled all other claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that Claims 44 – 55 and the entire case are in condition for allowance and should be sent to issue and such action is respectfully requested.

It is submitted that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal by materially reducing the number of issues on appeal, and thus, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigning attorney if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application.

If any request for an extension of time is required for acceptance of this paper and is not otherwise made, kindly consider this as such a request.

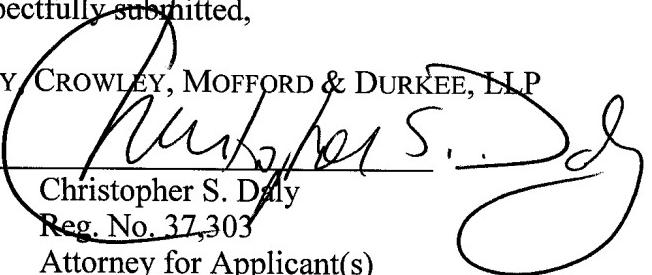
The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

Dated: 1 JUN 06

Respectfully submitted,

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